Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A vacuum assisted wound closure device, comprising:

a screen means for placement within a wound bed;

a sealing means adhered over said screen means and wound bed;

a vacuum source fluidically communicating with said screen means; and

a fluid compositional sensing device interposed between said screen means and said vacuum source;

wherein the fluid compositional sensing device senses compositional characteristics of unfiltered wound fluid from the wound bed.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The vacuum assisted wound closure device of claim 1 wherein said fluid compositional sensing device ~~is comprised of~~ comprises a gas chromatograph.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The vacuum assisted wound closure device of claim 2 wherein said ~~gas chromatograph is comprised of~~ fluid compositional sensing device further comprises a photo diode operable in conjunction with said gas chromatograph and in optical proximity to fluids being drawn from the wound site towards said vacuum source.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The vacuum assisted wound closure device of claim 1 wherein said fluid compositional sensing device is comprised of a sensor array.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The vacuum assisted wound closure device of claim 1 further comprising a collection canister interposed between said screen means and said fluid compositional sensing device.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A vacuum assisted wound closure device, comprising:

a screen means for placement within a wound bed;

a sealing means adhered over said screen means and wound bed;

a vacuum source fluidically communicating with said screen means;

a collection canister interposed between said screen means and said vacuum source; and

a fluid compositional sensing device for detecting infection;

wherein the fluid compositional sensing device senses compositional characteristics of unfiltered wound fluid from the wound bed, said compositional characteristics indicative of said infection within the wound.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The vacuum assisted wound closure device of claim 6 wherein said fluid compositional sensing device is embedded within said screen means.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The vacuum assisted wound closure device of claim 6 wherein said fluid compositional sensing device is disposed on said sealing means, such that said fluid compositional sensing device is in contact with said screen means.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The vacuum assisted wound closure device of claim 6 wherein said fluid compositional sensing device is disposed within said canister.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The vacuum assisted wound closure device of claim 6 further comprising a flexible conduit for communicating between said screen means and said vacuum source.